

Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

IT'S not always Riding the Sooner Range that's interesting in alumni work. At times the "hired hand" via memory land plus the office chair is privileged to do some fancy gallopin' in the office! Today in the routine of the calls coming across the desk, it is necessary that we pull from the files certain class lists over a series of years in order to make a check on graduates.

Did you ever creep up to the "ole attic," dig out the musty boxes in which the treasures of years and years ago have been stored? Well, that's similar to the run of the range today in making this survey for one of our clients in the East, and before me, with the class list of the class of 1906, flashes in review a series of names from this 34-years back list of graduates in whom I know you are interested and about whom I have been privileged, through a series of years while galloping over the range, to learn some intimate details.

Thirty-four years ago on this campus, as a dignified senior, MERLE NEWBY, now MRS. FRANK BUTTRAM, '06, '12, of Oklahoma City, passed in review. How well I remember some three years ago when she was assigned by the Board of Trustees of the Oklahoma Memorial Union to act on an important selections committee, how she spent night and day working in the interests of this memorial building dedicated to those who paid the supreme price in the World War, taking time out in her busy life to be of further service to her institution.

Another '06 lady, MRS. ALTA LOOMIS CORDER, of Cordell, has served and served well down through the years, and now, as chairman of the Advisory Council for the Alumni Association in her county, still contributes week after week and month after month to the development of a greater University of Oklahoma.

THOMAS BUCHANAN MATTHEWS, "'06-Tom"—now of Tulsa—how often as a youngster in the village of Norman have I watched long, tall Tom hustle around in his real estate business when he was here in Norman covering a series of years stacked on years. And at the bottom of this 34-year list, classified in alphabetical order, GUY YANDELL WILLIAMS, '06, '10 ma, today the dignified professor and head of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Oklahoma—then the "alert, athletic, bouncin' high Guy Y.," the chap you will remember in those days as being one of the cast of clowns with the circus, and no mean cowhand in twirlin' a rope.

The '07 list flashes in review. The name of FLOYD LEE SWANK, '07pharm, Norman, appears in bold type as one of that year's graduates. This morning I saw him accompanying his young daughter (who works in the Book Exchange in the Union) to her place of duty. In the past twenty-five years it has been my privilege to be intimately associated with him, and today in memory's review I think of those long night drives we had years and years ago when he was a ranking officer in the Masonic Order and carting his Masonic team from one spot in Oklahoma to another to confer degrees. And too, I see him as Norman postmaster years ago, but today he is back at his chosen field of work in the field of chemistry as an official in charge of one of the divisions of Chemistry Department on the University campus.

ERRETT R. NEWBY, '07, '08, now of Oklahoma City, has contributed year after year to his class of 1907—and to his state, as a successful business man, father, and citizen, and his name stands prominently on this list. I remember him as registrar of the University over a series of years, and in recent years remember him more distinctly as a trustee of the Life

Membership Trust Fund of the Alumni Association, and a trustee of the Oklahoma Memorial Union.

SAMUEL G. AMBRISTER, '08, still holds down his Norman assignment, and I see him quite often, and often he mentions old cronies of his in the class of 1908. In recent years I have watched him develop a very fine orchard near Norman and often talked with him and noted his keen enthusiasm about special fruits. THOMAS F. CAREY, '08, Oklahoma City, appears on this class of 1908 list, and in recent days I have been associated with him, watched with great interest the enthusiasm displayed due to Tom Jr. (who finished the Oklahoma University Law School this last June) and due to his very efficient office-manager-daughter (who studied law for four years at night in Oklahoma City), both taking the Oklahoma Bar in recent examinations. Indeed, any daddy should be proud of a son and daughter like that!

Across the desk occasionally comes notes, as well as lengthy letters, from LLOYD BURGESS CURTIS, '08, '10eng, the '08 grad residing in Landers, Wyoming. As a result of correspondence over a series of years, I feel that I know him intimately. Druggist JACK W. FOSTER, '08pharm, business man of Norman, is often in our building on the campus, and I am privileged to hail him on the streets of Norman. Just how many years he has been in the drug business in Norman, I cannot answer, but he is indeed a permanent fixture among the citizens of this community.

Then WILLIAM T. LEACH, '08, '15, "Cump" to his intimate friends—well, he was not here representing the class of 1908 last week but was in this building attending the regular weekly luncheon of the Norman Rotary Club. We had a chance to visit with him briefly and learn of his very interesting work in the Oklahoma City public school system.

Not a month ago, another graduate of the class of 1908 dropped into our offices on business and to visit—FINIS E. MCREYNOLDS, '08, '29ed.m, who taught last year (and possibly will teach for the year to come) in the school at Maysville, Oklahoma. For a number of years he has been officially making Norman his residence, and we see him often as we gallop along the range.

The class of 1909 (wonder why our clients in the East had us to go back so many years to supply them information on O. U. graduates?)—well, at any rate it was interesting that this assignment reached the desk because on this class list we find many graduates with whom we have had contact in recent weeks, years, and months.

For example, WILLIAM J. CROSS, '09 "Bill" to most of you fellows, the business manager of the Athletic Department of the University of Oklahoma, the chap who can wield the wicked wand and provide 50-yard line tickets for the football games for 75,000 alumni of this institution. (At least it seems to us that those thousands think so when they call us at midnight or 2 a. m. in the morning during the football season urging us to get Uncle Bill out of bed.)

The name of FRANK M. LONG, '08, '09ma, now of Roanoke, Virginia, who made his class of 1909 contribution by his very fine work as Y. M. C. A. secretary in Brazil, South America, flashes on this list before us. Frank's been back in recent years on more than one occasion. His children have been in school at the University of Oklahoma, and upon his return to the University campus it was fortunate that dozens of

his old cronies of the class of 1909 were here in a class reunion so that they could swap experiences down through the years.

DR. ROSCOE WALKER, '09, who for years has been a practicing physician in Pawhuska. He prides his membership as a grad of '09, and often returns to the campus here for special work. As county chairman of the Advisory Council, and as father of Roscoe, Jr., we often see this combination of father and son together.

(Yes, like the run of all days, there must be a break in the continuity.) These lists from which we are running over names must be shoved back across the desk because visitors are in vogue. GEORGE METCALF, '39bus, "Lieutenant" to you army-inclined Sooners, breezes in the office on his way to the Panama Canal Zone on army assignment. For more than a year now, Uncle Sam has had him performing his army officer's duty at Fort Sam Houston. George wants a list of all the Sooners in the Canal Zone. He will have them in a few minutes and be on his way to report in Panama on the 29th.

And two minutes later, in steps LT. PERRY HACKETT, '34eng, who for nearly two years has been assigned to his officer's duty with the U. S. Army, stationed in Honolulu. Three weeks ago, his superior officers in the army assigned him to special training at Harvard for the next four months. Twelve hours out from Honolulu a radiogram flashed through that his assignment was changed and they are now sending him to Fort Benning, Georgia. So he too wants a list of Sooners down Georgia-Alabama way, and in a few hours will be on his way as an army officer to his new army post assignment.

The army men have been out of the office for a minute and a half, when in breezes another engineer husband plus his charming wife, namely, WILLIAM FLOYD HILDEBRAND, '37eng, now of Houston, Texas. The young wife with him is one of our former employees of a few years back here at the University, RIMA SMITH HILDEBRAND, '37ex, and we got in a lot of good visiting about the years when her brothers, HERBERT SMITH, '32bus, now of Los Angeles, was auditor for me in my work, while her kid brother, HERMAN SMITH, '35ex, now of Maysville, Oklahoma, was my "general utility Friday man" and breezed on to West Point for special training.

For a few minutes at least visitors have cleared out—so back to the lists—

In making this survey, the 1911 class list shows the name of the dignified DR. F. A. BALLYEAT, '11, '18ma, of the O. U. faculty. Of course, being an associate of his here on the campus, I see him often, but never have I seen him in such fine "fettle" as he was a few nights ago in speaking for the alumni before the men's annual picnic here on the campus of the University of Oklahoma—yes, his stories were good but I can't use 'em in this column!

DR. HOWARD S. BROWNE, '11, '12pharm, '13ms, represents in the medical profession the class of 1911, as a citizen of Ponca City, Oklahoma. We often see him while visiting alumni in that city. And the name of HARRY A. BRUENS, '11ex, yes, there it is in bold type in that class of 1911, and indeed it has possibly been twenty years since I have had an opportunity of seeing him. Today he is the "glass-eyed banker" of Eldorado, Oklahoma, but back in 1915 he was my superintendent of schools when I was a kid in high school at the "biggest little city of the universe," Blair, Oklahoma.

It's just about high noon, so the lists must go back into the files, and with visitors CHARLIE MEMMINGER, '14, '33law, Atoka, MILT PHILLIPS, '22ex, Oklahoma City, EWING SADLER, '38, '38law, Sulphur, plus a dozen or so other officers of Boys State waiting outside for attention, we must gallop out of the "steaming office" and get to Riding the Sooner Range.